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MORNING BRIEFING

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7 June 1982

USSR-Lebanon Crisis: Little Reaction So Far

Soviet military reaction to the Lebanon crisis has been extremely limited so far.

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Of eight Soviet combatants currently in the Mediterranean, five are in the eastern Med, but none appear to be reacting to the crisis. A minesweeper yesterday began surveillance of the USS Kennedy; the latter is in the eastern Med and was scheduled to call at Haifa.

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Soviet media reaction to the Israeli incursion has not gone beyond initial commentary on Sunday which condemned the US and Israel. The Soviets--predictably--also renewed calls for an international conference on the Middle East to replace the Camp David process. Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Soldatov met with Lebanese President Sarkis yesterday and told reporters that the USSR will take all measures available to "denounce" Israel.

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